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(b) whether it is a fact that the local authorities have protested against such a course being taken ;

(c) what was the decision of the Government in the matter ;

(d) what was the recommendation of the District Educational Officer and the Director of Public Instruction in the matter ;

(e) how many incomplete secondary schools there are in the districts of Bellary, Kurnool and Anantapur ;

(f) whether they are self-supporting or is the net cost of such schools being paid by the Government ; and

(g) whether there is any great disparity in the strength of such incomplete secondary schools and that of the schools of the Cuddapah district ?

A.—(a), (c) & (d) The Director of Public Instruction has been asked to investigate the need for the continuance of the schools in question. His report has not yet been submitted to Government.

(b) The Government have no information.

(e), (f) & (g) The hon. Member is referred to the subsidiary tables appended to Volume II of the Report on Public Instruction in the Madras Presidency for 1925-26.

[Note.—An asterisk (\*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II

REFLECTIONS OF THE "MADRAS MAIL" ON THE MADRAS COUNCIL.

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, yesterday 12 noon. I mentioned to you and I felt it was my duty to bring to your notice what had been brought to my attention, namely, that, in a paper published in Madras, there appeared a paragraph in which there were certain suggestions which may be considered as impugning the impartiality of the President. It is, I think, conceded and I think it would be the unanimous desire of the House that every endeavour should be made to check any attempt to impugn the impartiality of the Chair, which impartiality is the foundation of the rights and dignity of this House and is conducive and is a *sine qua non* to good administration and proper legislation. After notice was taken of that matter, the newspaper in question, namely, the *Madras Mail* has, as is probably known, published a statement in which it repudiates all intention of drawing any attention to any alleged partiality or derogation from the highest standards of presidential rectitude, and in that point of view, with the assertion that this House will always resent such unfounded statements made in journals, my feeling is, and I think in that respect I shall be sharing the feelings of my friends on the floor of the House, that we might leave the matter there."

\* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Sir, I entirely associate myself with the remarks that the hon. the Leader of the House made with regard to the article which appeared in the *Madras Mail* on or about the 28th of January last. It is no doubt, Sir, a delicate and difficult matter to define the conduct of the public press in relation to this House and its distinguished



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President ; but as has been very rightly pointed out by the hon. the Leader of the House, so far as this particular article is concerned, I do not think it comes within the range of articles where it is difficult to distinguish between criticism and attack. It accuses this House of abusing the privilege of supplemental questions and it attributes this abuse to your somewhat lenient conduct. Sir, you are too much of a parliamentarian to be swayed away by criticisms of this sort in regard to allowing hon. Members of this House to make full use of their privileges, and perhaps the only important privilege which hon. Members are given here. More than that, it further institutes a comparison between the Indian Legislative Assembly and the Madras Legislative Council and draws a comparison most unfavourable to this House by saying that this House lacks completely in the dignity which characterizes the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. That seems to me, Sir, to be a very bad attack against the dignity of this House. I do not propose to take the same stand as the *Madras Mail* ; but I think every one of us will agree that if such a comparison is instituted, the comparison will not be unfavourable to the Madras Legislative Council. Sir, no doubt, the *Madras Mail* has offered some sort of explanation yesterday evening so far as its comments in respect of you are concerned, but I do not feel that the paper has said anything with regard to the particular sentence that the proceedings of this House lack in dignity. However, having regard to the fact that some notice has been taken by this House, and hoping that the paper will conduct itself better, I do not wish to make any further suggestion than accept the sentiments expressed by the hon. the Leader of the House."

\* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Sir, having regard to the observations that fell from my hon. Friend, the Leader of the House, viz., that the editor of the offending paper has subsequently written, though not an actual apology, an article from which an apology may be inferred, I think the best course in the circumstances is, as my friend suggested, to drop the whole matter."

### III

#### GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET FOR 1927-28 -cont.

\* Rao Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" Sir, we are glad that, so far as this Presidency is concerned, after the Reforms were introduced, although five years of financial stringency have elapsed, we are now on the threshold of a surplus budget. We have reason to feel the hope, may I take it, the full hope of the remission of our contributions being completely released so far as our province is concerned for this year. We are now in the position of a Council with a large outstanding balance to our credit and not knowing how to dispose of it. While I must congratulate the hon. the Finance Member for the lucid way in which he has set out the various transactions, it is really disappointing to see that there is nothing like constructive suggestion or proposal as to how to utilize the balances now available, especially in respect to our real paymasters, the villagers, the ryots, who are the mainstay of our finances. I expected, Sir, especially in the present budget, that with ideas of rural reconstruction, with ideas of rural development, something would be forthcoming from the Government, from the hon. the Finance Member and from the Ministry, as to what suggestions they have got to make with regard to the carrying out of those objects. On the other hand, Sir, what we find is a